

Claim Amendments:

A listing of the claims, including Claim 1 and 41 as currently amended, is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated cDNA molecule of a mammalian ELF3 gene, wherein said cDNA molecule comprises at least one intron of the ELF3 gene ~~or comprises at least a portion of an intron of the ELF3 gene~~, wherein the ELF3 gene consists of ~~comprises~~ a contiguous sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:10, and wherein said intron is selected from the group consisting of intron 4, intron 5, intron 6, intron 7 and intron 8; ~~and wherein said cDNA molecule is at least 20 nucleotides long.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the intron is selected from the group consisting of intron 4, intron 5, intron 6 and intron 7.

3-12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented). The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule also comprises at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:13.

14-15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO:11.

17-18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule comprises intron 7 or a portion thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule comprises introns 4, 5, and 6, and a portion of intron 7.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule was prepared from a composition comprising a cell, the cell obtained from a human patient being tested for breast cancer.

25. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, which is at least 50 nucleotides long.

26. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, which is at least 100 nucleotides long.

27. (Previously Presented) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, which is at least 500 nucleotides long.

28-33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the cDNA molecule of claim 1.

35. (Original) A cell transfected with the vector of claim 34.

36-40. (Canceled).

41. (Currently Amended) A set of two primers, each less than 30 nucleotides in length, wherein each primer is homologous to a portion of an ELF3 gene, and (a) wherein at least one primer is homologous to a portion of an intron of the ELF3 gene or (b) wherein each primer is homologous to a portion of different exons of the ELF3 gene, wherein the set of two primers is are capable of directing RT-PCR synthesis of the cDNA molecule of claim 1.

42-71. (Canceled).

72. (Previously Presented) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 1, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

73-118. (Canceled).

119. (Previously Presented) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 2, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

120. (Previously Presented) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 19, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

121. (Previously Presented) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 13, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

122. (Previously Presented) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 16, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

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123. (Previously Presented) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 20, the probe further comprising a detectable label.